

**What is claimed:**

1. A multi-media communication management system for operation with a plurality of subscriber stations, the multi-media communication management  
5 system comprising:

a network communication circuit for multi-media communication with said plurality of subscriber stations;

a control module for establishing a communication session with the plurality of subscriber stations, the control module comprising:

10 means for receiving an indication of a plurality of selected conference session participants,

means for identifying a plurality of participating subscriber stations, each participating subscriber station being a one of the plurality of subscriber stations that is associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of  
15 conference session participants;

a conference mixing module comprising:

means for establishing a streaming media communication channel with each participating subscriber station, for receiving an audio signal from the participating subscriber station, and for sending a mixed audio signal to  
20 the participating subscriber station, and

means for generating said mixed audio signal from a plurality of said audio signals received from said plurality of participating subscriber stations.

25 2. The multi-media communication management system of claim 1, wherein the means for receiving an indication of a plurality of selected conference session participants comprises:

means for providing a subscriber's list of contacts to an initiating subscriber station; and

30 means for receiving an indication of the subscriber's selection of conference session participants from the list of contacts.

3. The multi-media communication management system of claim 2, wherein the means for providing a subscriber's list of contacts comprises:

means for providing display content messages to the initiating subscriber station, the display content messages including the subscriber's list of contacts; and

means for providing display layout control messages to the initiating subscriber station, the display layout control messages including instructions utilized by the initiating subscriber station for displaying the subscriber's list of contacts on a display screen associated with the initiating subscriber station.

4. The multi-media communication management system of claim 1, wherein the means for identifying a plurality of participating subscriber stations comprises:

means for identifying a participant subscriber device associated with each one of the plurality of conference session participants; and

means for identifying the subscriber station serving the participant subscriber device.

5. The multi-media communication management system of claim 1, further comprising:

a service provider interface for multimedia communication with a plurality of remote audio communication devices over a service provider network; and

wherein the conference mixing module further comprises:

means for establishing a streaming media communication channel with selected ones of said plurality of remote audio communication devices,

means for receiving an audio signal from each of said selected ones of said plurality of remote audio communication devices,

means for generating said mixed audio signal from a plurality of said audio signals received from said plurality of participating subscriber stations and said selected ones of said plurality of remote audio communication devices, and

means for sending the mixed audio signal to said plurality of participating subscriber stations and each said selected ones of said plurality of remote audio communication devices.

5           6.     The multi-media communication management system of claim 5, wherein:

said conference mixing module further comprises:

means for determining a status of each conference session participant, the status comprising an indication of whether the conference session participant is at least one of: active, inactive, mute, and blocked from receiving the mixed audio signal; and

said control module further comprises:

means for providing a list of each conference session participant and an indication of the participant's status to at least one of the participating subscriber stations.

7.     The multi-media communication management system of claim 6, wherein the means for providing a list of each conference session participant and an indication of the participant's status comprises:

means for providing display content messages to the participating subscriber station, the display content messages including the list of each conference participant and the indication of the participant's status; and

means for providing display layout control messages to the participating subscriber station, the display layout control messages including instructions utilized by the participating subscriber station for displaying the list of each conference participant and the indication of the participant's status.

8.     The multi-media communication management system of claim 6, wherein the conference mixing module further comprises:

means for determining an updated status of a session participant when the status of the session participant changes.

9. The multi-media communication management system of claim 1, wherein said control module further comprises:

means for providing a list of each video image to the at least one  
5 participating subscriber station; and

means for receiving from the at least one participating subscriber station an indication identifying the selected one of the video images from the list.

10 10. The multi-media communication management system of claim 9, wherein:

said conference mixing module further comprises:

means for combining at least two of the video images to generate a mixed video image and for sending the mixed video image to at least one participating subscriber station; and

15 the control module further comprises:

means for receiving from the at least one participating subscriber station an indication identifying the at least two video images from the list.

20 11. A method of providing conference call services to a plurality of subscriber stations, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of a plurality of selected conference session participants from an initiating subscriber station;

25 identifying a plurality of participating subscriber stations, each participating subscriber station being a one of the plurality of subscriber stations that is associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of conference session participants;

30 establishing a streaming media communication channel with each participating subscriber station for receiving an audio signal from the participating subscriber station and for sending a mixed audio signal to the participating subscriber station; and

generating said mixed audio signal from a plurality of said audio signals

received from said plurality of participating subscriber stations.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of receiving an indication of a plurality of selected conference session participants comprises:

5 providing a subscriber's list of contacts to the initiating subscriber station;  
and

receiving an indication of the subscriber's selection of conference session participants from the list of contacts.

10 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing a subscriber's list of contacts comprises:

providing display content messages to the initiating subscriber station, the display content messages including the subscriber's list of contacts; and

15 providing display layout control messages to the initiating subscriber station, the display layout control messages including instructions utilized by the initiating subscriber station for displaying the subscriber's list of contacts on a display screen associated with the initiating subscriber station.

20 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of identifying a plurality of participating subscriber stations comprises:

identifying a participant subscriber device associated with each one of the plurality of conference session participants; and

identifying the subscriber station serving the participant subscriber device.

25 15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

identifying a remote audio communication device associated with a conference session participant;

30 generating said mixed audio signal from a plurality of said audio signals received from said plurality of participating subscriber stations and said remote audio communication device, and

establishing a streaming media communication channel with the remote

audio communication device for receiving an audio signal from the remote audio communication device and for sending the mixed audio signal to the remote audio device.

5           16.    The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
              determining a status of each conference session participant, the status comprising an indication of whether the conference session participant is at least one of active, inactive, mute, and blocked from receiving the mixed audio signal; and

10           providing a list of each conference session participant and an indication of the participant's status to at least one of the participating subscriber stations.

15           17.    The method of claim 16, wherein the step of providing a list of each conference session participant and an indication of the participant's status comprises:

              providing display content messages to the participating subscriber station, the display content messages including the list of each conference participant and the indication of the participant's status; and

20           providing display layout control messages to the participating subscriber station, the display layout control messages including instructions utilized by the participating subscriber station for displaying the list of each conference participant and the indication of the participant's status.

25           18.    The method of claim 16, further comprising determining an updated status of a session participant when the status of the session participant changes.

              19.    The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
              providing a list of each video image to the at least one participating subscriber station; and

30           receiving from the at least one participating subscriber station an indication identifying the selected one of the video images from the list.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

combining at least two of the video images to generate a mixed video image  
and for sending the mixed video image to at least one participating subscriber  
5 station; and

receiving from the at least one participating subscriber station an indication  
identifying the at least two video images from the list.

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